

June 9, 2004

Dear VVFC Providers,

Keep an eye out for some important VVFC mail! You will soon find the newest version of the Backpage News Alert as well as a map of Immunization Rates among VVFC providers across the state of Virginia during 2003.

I would also like to take this opportunity to bring your attention to a couple of immunization issues of interest.

Attention All Users Of Combination Vaccines

If your practice has decreased or discontinued the use of single antigen DTaP, Hepatitis B, and IPV vaccines due to the increased use of Pediarix, Comvax or other combination vaccines, VVFC requests that you send the unneeded vaccine back to VVFC by viable return as soon as possible.

Remember, viable returns are conducted at no cost to your practice and help save tax dollars by getting the vaccines to those who will use them before their expiration. Consider re-evaluating your VVFC order amounts based on changes in your vaccine use. Conduct an inventory before ordering.

If you have any questions, call the VFC Order Center at 1-877-781-8832.

Minor Update to MMR VIS

Background: Recently CDC heard from a person who misinterpreted a sentence in the MMR VIS (1/15/03). In the first bullet under Section 3, she interpreted the last part of the sentence to mean that a person who has had a previous dose of MMR vaccine should not get another dose (when what it actually means is that a person who has had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a previous dose shouldn't get another one).

What CDC Changed: CDC simply added the word "to" to the sentence, so instead of ". . . or a previous dose of MMR vaccine" it now reads ". . . or to a previous dose of MMR vaccine." This should clear up any potential confusion.

What It Means for You: Not much. CDC has updated the VIS with this very minor change. The edition date of the VIS will not change. You do not have to throw away existing stocks of the VIS. Just be aware that the updated version is available and is attached to this email the next time you would like to reprint it.

New Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule July 2004 – December 2004

A revised Childhood Immunization Schedule for the second half of 2004 (July-December) has been published, updating recommendations for influenza vaccine. However, the 2004 Catch-up Schedule, published in January, has not changed. The new schedule is also attached to this email.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Kristen